

Republic Of Trinidad And Tobago

MAVAW's FORMAL DOCUMENTS.

FIRST GENERAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS—DONALD BERMENT—DAVID LAW—JOHNNY BHARATH—1994.
FIRST DIRECTORS: CHAIRMAN Christopher Holder: SECRETARY Donald Berment: TREASURER Desmond Persad—1998.



Promises
Of
Responsible
Orderlies.

Men Against Violence Against Women.

Yours In Nation Building.

REGISTERED NON-PROFIT COMPANY—NO M 1799 (95). (Charitable Status F (BUD): 7/4/205)



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MAWA

Men Against Violence Against Women

45 River Estate Circular, River Estate, Diego Martin, Trinidad.

Hot Lines: 637-0924, 668-5133. Cell: 753-0804, Fax: 637-0924.

Email: mavawsec@yahoo.com. Web Site: <http://www.mavaw.com>

DIRECTORS: Christopher Holder, CHAIRMAN. Donald Berment, SECRETARY. Desmond Persad, TREASURER.

Date: Friday 18th October 1996

Our Ref.: MAVAW—F1 Your Ref.:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached, the Formalisation Documents for the Organisation, “*Men Against Violence Against Women*,” M.A.V.A.W.

We, as the adults in modern day society and Caretakers of the Future for our Youth, must keep making Positive Steps, in order to stop the Destruction of our beloved Nation and society.

Consequently, “M.A.V.A.W,” as one of those Steps, sincerely Welcome your involvement with us, at any of our Three Functional Levels, you are most comfortable with, or as a Well Wisher.

In addition, the said attached Documents; provide the relevant information that should be necessary for the Registration of “M.A.V.A.W” as a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), with you or your Organisation.

Almost three (3) years of Preparation have gone into this Project and we will appreciate the opportunity, to work with you as an Affiliate, Observer, or in Collaboration, whichever applies.

The Growing Social Consciousness of our People, DEMANDS that NGO efforts, provide greater Guidance for our Legislators and Policy Makers, both in the Private and Public domains.

This Universal Effort to bring Peace and Harmony in Relationships must not stop. However, it requires Commitment, Contribution, Co-operation and Mutual Respect.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Signed DONALD BERMENT Secretary MAVAW.

Yours In Nation Building

G.M. Co-ordinators: David Law, Johnny Bharath,

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

P.O.R.O.



Men Against Violence Against Women

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Yours In Nation Building

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205
P.O.R.O.

FIRST GENERAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS—DONALD BERMENT—DAVID LAW—JOHNNY BHARATH.
FIRST DIRECTORS—CHAIRMAN—CHRISTOPHER HOLDER—SECRETARY—DONALD BERMENT—TREASURER—DESMOND PERSAD.
REGISTERED NON-PROFIT COMPANY—NO M 1799 (95)—August 1998. (Charitable Status F(BUD):7/4/205)





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1)

What Is--M.A.V.A.W.?

MAVAW, is a Philosophy, (masculine in concept—human focussed), which seeks to ADDRESS the **Violence Against Women**, in Modern Day Society and by Extension, the VIOLENT RESISTANCE, Expressed by SOME Women, as the Last Resort, to our Historically Entrenched Male Domination and Oppression. The academics may want to consider MAVAW, as the Development of the “**Men’s Movement**,” with a Caribbean Flavour and a By-feminism Component.

Consequently, **MAVAW** can be Accessed by **ALL MEN** and Operates at Three (3) Levels of Intensity, see Structure page 7. The COMMON Factor at All Levels, is that MEN Accept the Concept within MAVAW and Affirm to the Promises in the Code P.O.R.O. (Promises Of Responsible Orderlies)

LEVEL 1

At the Practicing and High Profile Level, **MEN** who are **Against Violence Against Women** and have a Lifestyle that Reflects their BELIEF, can Claim to be **MAVAW’s** and Operate in their Own Space, Contributing to and Participating in the Other TWO Levels of **MAVAW** Activities, as their Growth and TIME Allows.

LEVEL 2

At the Formal Level of **MAVAW**, **MEN** will meet and PLAN Strategies, in order to ACHIEVE the **GOALS** of **MAVAW**, within the Management Areas Specified, utilising the Services of a maximum of Three (3) Coordinators and a maximum of Six (6) Assistant Coordinators per Area.

LEVEL 3

At the Activist Level, **MAVAW’s** who can be Comfortable WORKING with Women, in Women’s Organisations, can Affiliate themselves WITH or be Assigned by us TO, such Groups, who will Accept Them or Us, as Affiliate, Associate or Observer Members. All three (3) of our First General Management Coordinators, have Experience Working with Women in Women’s Groups.

One such Member, DONALD BERMENT has been associated with The National Women’s Caucus, for a period of two (2) years and eight (8) months and is one of the TWO MALE Members on the Board of Directors of the National Women’s Caucus Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited

Yours In Nation Building

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

P.O.R.O.

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2)

The Concept.

MAVAW's Concept is that The **PRIMARY VIOLENCE** Being Committed Against Women is a **PSYCHOLOGICAL** One. ➔ That is :-

"Most Men Have Not Accepted Women As Equal Together With Appreciating Them As Different."

(EXPLANATION)

SOCIALISATION and EDUCATION, both in the Private and Public Domains have Historically Entrenched MALE SUPERIORITY and PATRIARCHY.

The **CONTINUOUS RESISTANCE** to this **OPPRESSION** and the **MENTAL REVOLUTION** that Accompanies this **QUEST for CHANGE**, Requires the Participation of Both **MEN** and **WOMEN**, Working Together as **JOINT Partners** where Possible and **Partners In COMMON** where Necessary.

We as **ENLIGHTENED MEN**, Must Facilitate **CHANGE** and **DEVELOP STRUCTURES** which will Prevent **FUTURE GENERATIONS**, from Inheriting what we **EXPERIENCE TODAY**, or in the **REVERSE**.

(**WE WANT CHANGE NOT EXCHANGE**)

Psycho-social Analysis have Revealed that there are **THREE TYPES** of Mental Development to Prepare for in our **QUEST for CHANGE**.

- 1) Persons In DENIAL Who Have To Be Reached And Guided Towards CONSCIOUSNESS.**
- 2) Persons In DISTRESS Who Are Becoming CONSCIOUS And Are Willing To Work With And For CHANGE.**
- 3) Persons Who Are Becoming CONSCIOUS And Are ANGRY To The Point Of Seeking EXCHANGE (Women), Or RESISTING CHANGE (Men)**

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3)

The Code—P.O.R.O.

(Promises Of Responsible Orderlies)

PROMISE TO GOD.

I Promise, To Always Live By the Guidance Of God and Give Praise,
Honour and Glory To God, In Everything that I Do.

P R O M I S E T O N A T I O N

I Promise, that All My Actions, Shall Be Done With the Desire To Build
and Develop Our Nation and Its People Within the Concept of Democracy.

P R O M I S E T O F A M I L Y

I Promise, To Always Respect Family Life and Give Love, Support and
Understanding, at All Times To My Family, Accepting the Doctrine that
the Family that Prays Together Stays Together.

P R O M I S E T O S E L F

I Promise, To Keep the Promises that I Have Made, Doing My Best To Be
A Role Model and Example To Others, Whilst Respecting Their Opinions
and Individualities.

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4)

M.A.V.A.W. Goals

- 1)** Inform MEN about our CONCEPT, which is, that the PRIMARY VIOLENCE being committed Against WOMEN is a PSYCHOLOGICAL One, in that MOST MEN have not Accepted WOMEN as EQUAL, Together with Appreciating Them as DIFFERENT.
- 2)** Provide in the First Instance, for EDUCATION and TRAINING of all our MEMBERS and Well Wishers and in the Second Instance, on Request.
- 3)** Locate, Identify and Register, All MEN in Solidarity with our CAUSE, both in CONCEPT and these GOALS, offering them participation in M.A.V.A.W., which is one of the PROACTIVE ways to take RESPONSIBILITY for MALE VIOLENCE and also which will CONTRIBUTE to CREATING a Violent Free Society.
- 4)** Conduct Research generally and Needs Analysis where possible, on the Incidence and Intensity of VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS, with an Emphasis on DOMESTIC VIOLENCE dedicating ourselves to Reducing and eventually Eliminating, Unacceptable Violence in Society, using a Multi-disciplinary approach, focussing on Correcting Behaviour Skill and Belief System Deficits.
- 5)** Initiate and/or Engage in Social Activism, in order to push Existing and Emerging Societal Problems with Violent Content, TOWARDS Gender Sensitive Social and Educational Solutions.
- 6)** Develop and Maintain, a NETWORK of Committed and Qualified Members and Friends, in order to Provide Both MEN and WOMEN, with Short Term and Long Term Assistance, Physically, Emotionally and Financially.
- 7)** Affiliate With and/or Work alongside, all other Non-Governmental Groups/Organisations, Civil Society and Governments, who share with us, this Common Goal of Reducing and Eventually Eliminating VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR, In and From our Society.
- 8)** Host when Possible and Attend when Invited, Public Meetings, Seminars, Symposiums, Workshops, Consultations, Conferences etc., both Locally and Internationally.

Yours In Nation Building

P.O.R.O.

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5)

The History And Support.

- 1) On Saturday 19th February 1994, a Committee which will attempt to Sensitize Men on the Crime Issues, to be led by Donald Berment, was accepted by the Nation Women's' Caucus (NWC), at their second General Meeting for 1994.
- 2) Over the last 32 Months (2 years and 8 months to October 1996) Donald has been working with other Men and Women, together and individually, in the Areas of Research, Teaching and Social Activism, Focussing on Violence Against Women, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE in particular.
- 3) Two (2) Men have stood out as being very Active and Committed in this Joint Effort and work on their own Initiative. They are David Law, a Community Liaison Officer with the Ministry for Community Development, Culture and Women's Affairs and Johnny Bharath, Corporal Soldier, of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force, attached to the Civilian Conservation Corps, 32 months and 10 months respectively.
- 4) Consequently, based on our Field Observations and in Consultations with Well Wishers, Donald Berment, Housing Specialist, David law and Johnny Bharath form the Interim General Management Coordinating Team, seeking to Develop MAVAW, to the point of Registering as an NGO, Being an Alternative To Violence and the Light at the End of the Tunnel for All our Citizens who Exist in Violent Relationships and/or Receive Violent Treatment.
- 5) The Major Thrust over the Term, has been Primarily Directed towards Sensitizing as many People as Possible, using the Face to Face Technique, the Print and Electronic Media, the University, Similar Minded Commentators, whilst Helping to Develop other Men Support Groups, in the Family Planning Association (FPA), and the Women's Affairs Section of the Ministry. Full Participation in the Developmental Efforts of the Women's Movement in Trinidad and Tobago, was given, for example; Public Marches and Forums, Interactive Media, Seminars etc., was regularly Supported and Attended. Records of same are available for perusal on request.

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6)

The Future.

- 1) MAVAW's Growth and Development is Demanding that a more Intense Effort be Made by MEN working together, in Addition to the Activist Effort completed over the last 2 years and 8 months. We have three (3) Home Based Outreach Locations in the North of Trinidad, one (1) Office Day a Week, in a South Councilors Office and a Proposal from a Rotary Affiliated Resource Group in Central Trinidad, for Another one (1) Office Day, sharing their Office Space.
- 2) Therefore *Formal MAVAW* (Level 2), has to Consolidate and Prepare itself to Provide Greater Service, Registration and Revenue Collection in order to fund its Future Operations. *Formal MAVAW*, will Accept the CONCEPT and Affirm to the PROMISES in this Document at pages 2) and 3), Operating within the Management Areas shown on page 7).
- 3) Each Management Area, will be Guided by a maximum of *Three (3) Coordinators* and a maximum of *Six (6) Assistant Coordinators*, who altogether will make up the Management Membership.
- 4) We are considering arriving at *MAVAW DECISIONS*, through the Discussion at *General Membership Meetings, General Coordinators Meetings, Specific Coordinators and Specific Assistant Coordinators Meetings*.
- 5) Registration will be Made with All the Authorities/Bodies so to do.
- 6) Accountability and Financial Responsibility will be Achieved by the Standard Methodologies.
- 7) For the Benefit of Busy Members, Communication will be Available via. Phone, Fax and Postal Measures.
- 8) Revenue will be Acquired in the Following Ways :-
1. Application Fees Of \$25.00.
 2. Monthly Management Membership Subscription Of \$20.00
 3. Monthly General Membership Subscription Of \$20.00.
 4. Donations From Well Wishers (Financial and In Kind).
 5. Fund Raising Ventures.
 6. Grants for General Development Or Specific Projects.

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FIRST GENERAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS—DONALD BERMENT—DAVID LAW—JOHNNY BHARATH.



7) Management And Structure.

MEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.



Areas Of Management (LEVEL 2) Formal.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) GENERAL | (2) MEETING |
| (3) FINANCE | (4) PUBLIC RELATIONS |
| (5) AFFILIATION | (6) LEGAL AFFAIRS |
| (7) RESEARCH | (8) EDUCATION AND TRAINING |
| (9) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | (10) CONSULTANT SERVICE |
| (11) YOUTH RESOURCE | (12) SECURITY |

**3 COORDINATORS AND 6 ASSISTANT COORDINATORS IN EACH AREA.
FRIENDS AND RESOURCE PERSONS WORK IN LEVEL 3 (ACTIVIST)**

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FIRST GENERAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS—DONALD BERMENT—DAVID LAW—JOHNNY BHARATH.



**APPLICATION OF RESEARCH AS THE VEHICLE MAVAW
FROM
FEBRUARY 1994
TO
JULY 2001.**

INTRODUCTION.

Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW), could be considered to have had a Natural Birth, in that it was a man's idea, put forward and accepted at a forum to deal with rising crime in 1994, hosted by a Feminist Organisation, called **The National Women's Caucus (NWC)**. Said idea was to have a **Crime Committee** made up of **concerned men** in society, focussing on **violent male behaviour** and developing strategies to reduce and eventually stop this male behaviour.

After functioning for about **nine months** within The National Women's Caucus, the Crime Committee developed into the organisation "**Men Against Violence Against Women**" and thereafter, **MAVAW** became an active participant in the "**Men's Movement**", joining the fifty (50) year old International Men's Movement and the budding Caribbean Movement, which was **started in Jamaica in 1991**, with the **Fathers' Incorporated Organisation**.

MAVAW is a **Proactive way** to take responsibility for **Male Violence** and to contribute towards the creation of a **Violent Free Society**, i.e.,:--

1. **It puts Concerned men to Work and to identify with Problem Solving.**
2. **It allows men trying to Change, to achieve Success, by Working to help others.**
3. **It tries to reach men in Denial, who still live in Violent Relationships, by offering them Support and a way out.**

MAWAWISM therefore, is the *Pursuit of Equal Rights with Consequent Appreciation for the Differences between the Sexes, Utilising the Principle of Equity and with an Accent on Bringing Paternal Care back into the Home wherever it is Lacking.*

MAVAW's MISSION is *to reduce in the first instance and eventually eradicate unacceptable violence in society, with an emphasis on Domestic Violence and Violence Against Women, using a multi-disciplinary approach, focussing on correcting behaviour skill and belief system deficits.*

MAVAW REGISTERED as a **Non-Profit Company (M 1799 95)** in August of **1998** and has three (3) First Directors, namely: -

1. CHRISTOPHER HOLDER	POLICE OFFICER	CHAIRMAN.
2. DONALD BERMENT	HOUSING SPECIALIST	SECRETARY.
3. DESMOND PERSAD	ACCOUNTANT	TREASURER.

Fiscal Year—1st July—to—30th June.

Over the period **February 1994 to date—July 1999**, **MAVAW** has recorded **381 Outreach Activities/Efforts**, spanning the full spectrum of **Social Activism**, the most high profile are: --

1. Campaign to have our **Annual Male Awareness Week in December** and our **Annual Fathers' Week in June**, declared International Events on the United Nations Calendar.
2. Promotion of an **Annual Gender Sensitive Calypso Competition**, in order to make full use of our major Cultural Entertainment Season, in our Quest for a **Violent Free Society**.
3. Campaign to build the **First Transitional Home For Men** In Change Mode.

Activities year by year are listed on the following pages.

(Page 1 of 4)

**APPLICATION OF RESEARCH AS THE VEHICLE MAVAW
FROM
FEBRUARY 1994
TO
JULY 2001.**

THE YEAR—1994.

1. Presentation of “**THE RIPPLE EFFECT THEORY**” (RET) on Crime at the Chamber of Commerce “National Consultation On Crime”, held in the Queens’ Hall.
2. Attended a ten (10) day Training Course, hosted by the Ministry of Social Development, on the Topic, “**Preparing NGO’s to Assist in the Social Service Delivery System**”.
3. Sat on a Committee to support Senator Diana Mahabir Wayatt’s Presentation to the Senate on **The Unremunerated Work Bill**.

THE YEAR—1995.

1. Presentation of a “**3-Line Paper On Domestic Violence**”, in Room 101, UWI’s Engineering Building, said paper promoting the **Concept of Full Cycle Human Resource Management**.
2. Attendance at **Rallies, Processions, Seminars and Exhibitions**, disseminating literature aimed at correcting **Behaviour Skill and Belief System Deficits**.
3. Holistic support to then **Member of Parliament, Hulsie Bhaggan**, for one year, because she was alleging that Psychological Violence was being done to her.

THE YEAR—1996.

1. Attendance at **Rallies, Processions** etc., was also done in Year 1994 and continued thereafter.
2. Review and Recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Settlements, on our **Country’s Report, to the Habitat II Conference** in Istanbul, Turkey.
3. Presentation titled “**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**: Maximum Male Oppression And Horrific Girl Children Abuse”, for International Day Against Violence To Women.
4. Presentation titled “**Domestic Violence And The Men’s Movement**”, to a Lunchtime Seminar, at the Centre For Gender and Development studies, on the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies.
5. Initiation of the First “**Male Awareness Week**” in December, in collaboration with the then Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Women Affairs.

THE YEAR—1997.

1. Sat on a **Cabinet Appointed Ad Hoc Committee**, to review the **1991 Domestic Violence Act** and make Recommendations to correct the problems experienced by persons using said Act.
2. Attended a 3-Day Conference in Barbados, on the Topic “**Gender—Families and Sexual Health: A Spotlight On Males**”, hosted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation.
3. Presentation titled “**Masculinity Construction: A Critique and Experiential Perspective**”, to a Workshop at Holiday Inn on Domestic Violence With a Focus on Male Perpetrators.
4. First ever “**Fathers Week Celebrations**” held in June, with co-host Power 102 Fm Radio.
5. Participant in **UNIFEM, Latin America and Caribbean Section**—1 Year Campaign Against Violence Against women, from November 25th 1997 to December 10th 1998.

Activities continues on the next page.

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**APPLICATION OF RESEARCH AS THE VEHICLE MAVAW
FROM
FEBRUARY 1994
TO
JULY 2001.**

THE YEAR—1998.

1. Attended **World Bank's 2-Day Working Forums on Youth Development**, at the Crew's Inn, Chaguanas.
2. Attended the **International Association Of Community Police Officers (IAPCRO's)** 27th Annual Training Conference at the Trinidad Hilton “Embracing The Youth Through Community Policing” and delivered a Presentation titled **“The Game Of Violence and The Youth Psyche”**.
3. Presentation titled **“Violence In Relationships: Strategies For Prevention”**, to the Sixth (6) Form students of Tranquillity Government School.
4. Attended a 3-Day Gender Sensitization Workshop at Cascadia Hotel, hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Gender Affairs titled **“Training And Sensitization In Gender And Development”**.
5. Co-hosted with the Centre For Gender and Development Studies Unit at UWI St. Augustine, a Panel Discussion titled **“Men And The New Gender Relations”**, in the ISER Conference Room on Campus, during the **3rd Annual Male Awareness Week**.
6. Celebrated the **2nd Annual Fathers Week**, with a **“Fathers Fiesta Exhibition”** on Brian Lara Promenade, co-hosted with the newly formed Fathers Who Care Non governmental Group.

THE YEAR—1999.

1. Promotion of the first **“Gender Sensitive Calypso Competition”**, in order to introduce a new Challenge to our Local Artist, utilising our major cultural entertainment season.
2. Planning the publication and distribution of a 65 page **“Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook”**, edited by the Chairman of MAVAW, Police Officer Christopher Holder.
3. Attended **Rape Crisis Society's 4-Day Induction (Basic Counselling Training Programme)**, dealing with issues of Sexual and Domestic Abuse.
4. Prepared an Article for a Newsletter of the Women and Development Studies Group, titled **“A Man's View Of Violence Against Women”**.
5. Planning a 1-Year Gender Sensitization Project, with the Women and Development Studies Group at the University of the West Indies, titled **“Man To Man: A Training The Trainers Project”**, which we hope to start in October of 1999 and end in November 2000 and produce a Manual to guide future training, focussing on Reaching The Man Inside.
6. Discussion with **Prison Authorities, to address inmates Belief and Behaviour Deficits**. All six (6) Institutions are targeted, Carera, Frederick Street Port of Spain, the Youth Training Centre, Maximum Security, Golden Grove Men and Golden Grove Women.
7. Planning with **UNESCO Clubs of Trinidad and Tobago**, a Project for Forms 1—6 boys, aimed at reducing Violence In schools.
8. Left Trinidad in **November of 1999 to go to Canada**. During my stay there I completed a 5-Month Developmental Research Project titled **“Violence Reduction Strategies In A Large Multicultural, Racially/Tribally Diverse Developed Country—Using the RET Model”**.

Activities continue on the next page

(Page 3 of 4)

**APPLICATION OF RESEARCH AS THE VEHICLE MAVAW
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TO
JULY 2001.**

THE YEAR—2000.

1. Returned from Canada on Wednesday 5th April 2000. On Saturday 8th April I resumed Co-Supervision of "**The Man To Man: Training The Trainers Project**", which started in March.
2. Resumed dissemination of information at various fora and intensified radio appearances, which climaxed in a **14-Week—1-Hour Lunchtime Programme, on Radio 104 FM**, titled "**Talking Gender**". (*Audio tapes of the programmes are available*)
3. Attended **National Family Services outreach counselling group sessions**, for men and women.
4. Resumed planning with the Prison Authorities and submitted a **Healthy Relationships Curriculum**, called "**Managing Manhood**", to reach inmates incarcerated for sexual offences.
5. Attended a 2-Day Regional Symposium On Juvenile Justice In The Caribbean, titled "**Towards A Rights Approach For Children**", at the Crowne Plaza, hosted by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
6. Resumed planning the Non-Violent Project for Forms 1—6 Boys, of the **UNESCO Clubs of Trinidad and Tobago**.
7. Attended the **2nd International Men's Day at Palms Club San Fernando** on Sunday 19th Nov.
8. Celebrated **UN World AIDS Day** with a 3-Day Lecture Series for Curepe Junior Secondary School, Forms 1—3.
9. Spent **six (6) months** in an Urban environment, **Eastside Plaza, Charlotte Street**, Preparing and Collecting Preliminary Data for the Study titled, "**Examining The Role Of Intimacy And Violence In Spousal Relationships, And Its Impact On Poverty In An Urban Environment**". Lack of funds prohibited full development of this Project, which had Three (3) Components.

THE YEAR—2001.

1. Continued participating in **Exhibitions and other forums** when invited, disseminating and displaying literature aimed at correcting **Belief System and Behaviour Skill Deficits**.
2. Prepared **Text on Parenting for Desktop Publication**, using Ria Rogers guide to Hassle free Parenting.
3. Hosted with the Women and Development Studies Group, the **Graduation Ceremony of "The Man To Man: Training The Trainers Project"**, in April.

NOTE:

1. Awaiting funding to proceed with some of the Projects outlined above
2. Please use our Website <http://www.mavaw.com>.
3. Please use our Email: mavawsec@yahoo.com.

LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY
By David Law.

WHEN MEN AND WOMEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF THE EQUATION
SUBTRACTION WILL ALWAYS BE A DISTRACTION
SUPERIORITY MORE OFTEN THAN NOT BREEDS INSECURITY
PLEASE LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN FAMILY VALUES ARE NOW AN ENDANGERED SPECIES
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS JUST A SERIES IN AN EVOLVING MORASS
FORGET THE RACE, JUMP OUT OF YOUR CLASS
LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN SOME OF OUR CHILDREN ARE HOLDING THIS NATION TO RANSOM
CRIME DRUGS VIOLENCE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY MAY NOT GO AWAY EASILY
BLAME IT ON PARENTAL FAILURES, POLITICAL MISERIES
STILL LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN OUR WOMENFOLK ARE TOKENLY HONOURED AND APPRECIATED
GENDER IMBALANCES ARE IMPREGNATED IN OUR CULTURAL PSYCHE
DISMANTLE ALL BARRIERS, ADOPT AN ALL INCLUSIVE PHILOSOPHY
SO WE CAN BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN POVERTY KNOWS NO REGION OR RACE
IT'S TIME FOR US TO SHARE A HUMANE SPACE
BUILD ON SOCIAL CAPITAL, PROMOTE ECONOMIC STABILITY
LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN OUR HOMES HAVE BEEN RIPPED APART BY MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DECAY
AND THE ONUS IS ON OUR WOMENFOLK TO KEEP THINGS AT BAY
PRAY FOR OUR MOTHERS, OUR SISTERS TO COPE
THEIR ONLY AMMUNITION, FAITH AND HOPE
WE MUST BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN MEN ABSCOND, TRUE FATHER FIGURES STILL TO BE FOUND
SINGLE PARENTING BECOMES AN ADVERSARY
THE SILENT RAGE OF A GENERATION, IS MORE THAN A TRAGEDY
MEN LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN POLITICIANS PONTIFICATE AND LEGISLATE ON SOCIAL VALUES
PROVIDING ONLY SHORT TERM ECONOMIC CLUES
THE ROAD TO SOCIAL STABILITY IS LONGER THAN FINANCIAL PRUDENCY
LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN HOUSEWIVES ARE NOT ACCEPTED AS HOME MANAGERS
A PERFECT HOME WILL ALWAYS BE A MYTH
GREATER INCOME BUT NO POWER SHARING
IS NOT THE STRUCTURE FOR SOCIAL FAMILY PLANNING
AVOID THE TENSIONS, DO A FEASIBILITY
LET US BUILD A PEACEFUL SOCIETY.

WHEN WE AS A PEOPLE BECOME VOID OF RACE, CLASS, COLOUR
AND UNITE WITH ONE VIGOUR
TO ERADICATE THE SCOURGES THAT LIMIT OUR POWER
BUILDING A PEACEFUL SOCIETY
WILL NO LONGER BE A DREAM, BUT A PRACTICAL REALITY
PEACE, LET US SHARE THE PROCESS.

Composed by David Law, one of the Management Coordinators of MEN AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (MAVAW) for the celebration of International Women's Day 2002 and read by him for the first time at 2.45pm, Friday 8th March 2002 on the Brian Lara Promenade, Independence Square, Port of Spain.

(This was the seventh (7th) contribution to this Day by Men Against Violence Against Women.)



Men Against Violence Against Women

Email: mavawsec@yahoo.com Web Site: <http://www.mavaw.com>



What Is The BSD Syndrome?

The BSD Syndrome is a local Trinidad and Tobago analytical concept for Domestic and other Violence, being developed by the NGO, "Men Against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)." (1994).

This concept utilizes the information, research and expertise already available for people working in the area of Violence Reduction, placing all that is presently being made use off, under the phenomenon of a Syndrome, identifying BSD's in a number of ways, briefly explained below.

Tons of work has already been done on: -

- Belief System Deficits, (BSD)
- Behaviour Skill Deficits, (BSD)
- Biological System Deficits (BSD) and
- Baggage System Dependencies (BSD) by practicing

Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Sociologists, Social Workers, Medical Internists, Building Biologists, Nutritionists, Interior Designers and Housing Specialists/Community Planners.

Unfortunately, rarely do more than one or two of these professionals; focus on the problem of Domestic Violence and/or Societal Violence, at any one point in time or in any single piece of literature, primarily because of academic learning structures and egotistical practices.

What the BSD Syndrome will do, is to pool all the relevant data together under a Syndrome and spread the gospel of a Holistic approach to solving Violence Problems. In the BSD Syndrome, you will realize that violence in relationships is a paradoxical issue. Characteristics identified as BSD's in "abusive outwards behaviour", is complemented and also considered "abusive acceptance behaviour", recording the paradoxical fact that both parties in a relationship have BSD's.

It is therefore, a philosophical and scientific way to moves from the individual discipline solutions to a multi-discipline solution and depends on the acceptance of the concept that no one discipline has the answer for a situation where recurring violent behaviour have a variety of influencing elements.

Consequently, a model of the four (4) main characteristics within the syndrome can be used for research, analysis and diagnostic purposes. In addition, programmes for development in the four areas identified above, can be designed to replace the existing unsuitable ones, which in the main, contribute to polarizing the sexes, using inflammatory language, limiting the healing process.

A lot of research has already been collected for editing, prior to the preparation of a multi-authored text titled "Roots of Societal Violence—Understanding the BSD Syndrome". A few professionals have already been approached to be part of this ambitious project and in due course, some of the challenging logistics will be hammered into place. The days of using "Batterer", "Victim", "Perpetrators" in violence analysis, are numbered in the minority.

A letter to the Webmaster of the most powerful "male issues" website, Bert Hoff is appended to this explanation for further clarification and description of our work as MAVAW.

Yours In Nation Building

Company No M 1799(95) Charitable Status No F (BUD):7/4/205

P.O.R.O.

FIRST GENERAL MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS—DONALD BERMENT—DAVID LAW—JOHNNY BHARATH.



APPLICATION OF RESEARCH FROM JULY 2001 TO JULY 2003

1

To: berthoff@comcast.net.

[REPLY TO BERT HOFF](#)

Date: Wed/15/Oct/03

From: mavawsec@yahoo.com

Hello Bert,

Please accept my sincere thank you, for your quick response and frank comments to/on my Email "Men Against Violence Against Women". Let me also acknowledge here my deep appreciation for your work in maintaining "[Men Web](#)" and David Troops' efforts in [The Men's Issues opus](#). These resources will forever be a tremendous help to all men working on issues which affect men, be it abuse to them, from them, to and from their loved ones and to the environment. Another site to note is [www.menagainstviolence.com](#). The other Email to you, mentioned November 19th, the annual celebration, locally and in the Caribbean of "[International Men's Day](#)". My wish is that you hold no objection to this celebration and spread the word to the best of your ability.

The philosophy underpinning reduction and elimination of unacceptable violence, in my view, must accept different methodologies, presentation styles and degrees of healing by the persons involved; all based on their personal levels of emotional, physical and spiritual maturity.

Many men, on first hearing about MAVAW and reading our documents, get the impression that we do not realize the full extent of abuse to men or support them to the same degree, as we do women. A closer perusal of our Formal Documents and our History will show quite the opposite.

For the past five years [MAVAW \(Men Against Violence Against Women\)](#) has been operating a 24-hour HOTLINE 1-868-637-0924 with mailbox and cell phone 1-868-753-0804, so that we can testify to the pain and suffering of both men and women experiencing violence in their relationships. Our members sat on the [Cabinet appointed Committee](#), which reviewed our [Domestic Violence Legislation](#). MAVAW men now sit on the [Cabinet appointed Committee](#), which is analyzing the [Status of the Family in Trinidad and Tobago](#). Our Crime Statistics predominantly record offences by violent young males, a serious concern to us as men, fathers, uncles, brothers, nephews, grandfathers and adults. At last count, [5,494 men](#) were incarcerated in our Prison system and [216 women](#). A fact we aggressively requested to be noted by the formulators of the first National Gender Policy. As our Documents state "[We Want Change Not Exchange](#)"

Every Judge, Master of the High Court, Justice of the Peace, Magistrate, Library, Parliamentarian, Calypsonian, Media House and many NGO's to name a few have a copy of our [2002 Domestic Violence Awareness Handbook](#). On every occasion possible and there is a very interactive media component here; we challenge men and women on their gender insensitive statements. MAVAW coordinated a [13-week radio programme titled "Talking Gender"](#) emphasizing how both men and women are affected equally by violence in relationships.

At present there are five very important projects, which are getting the support of Men Against Violence Against Women: -

1. Publication of a textbook by member Dr. Russell Foote, "Roots Of Youth Aggression: Home, School and Multilevel Interventions",
2. International Men's Day by friend and supporter of MAVAW PhD candidate Jerome Teelucksingh.
3. "Men's TV" a one hour television programme for men, hosted by member Dr. Robert Moultrie, with half hour interviews and half hour public interaction.
4. The [BSD Syndrome Concept](#), our most important and "people issue" to date (explained below in part, which in my view is the future of Domestic Violence analysis and discussion).
5. A Bumper Sticker Programme, utilizing our most poignant "One Liners."

This **Syndrome** will eliminate the terms now used in the **Violence In Relationships Arena**, terms like **victim, batterer, perpetrator, domestic violence** etc. Within the **BSD Syndrome**, you will understand that Violence In Relationships is a paradoxical issue...Characteristics, which have already been well documented elsewhere, now come together under the umbrella of a Syndrome, and paradoxically, what is considered abusive as "outwards behaviour" is complemented and also considered abusive as "acceptance behaviour", recording the fact that both parties in the relationship have BSD's. These Characteristics can be explained under 4 Heads, which time and space allows for brief mention here: -

1. Belief System Deficit (BSD)
2. Behaviour Skill Deficit (BSD)
3. Baggage System Dependency (BSD)
4. Biological System Deficit (BSD) and these are the negative components in the Syndrome.
The positive action within the Syndrome also termed BSD's, but refer to methodologies utilized to accomplish Development: -
5. Belief System Development.
6. Behaviour Skill Development
7. Baggage System Development and
8. Biological System Development.

This concept scientifically places the Violence In Relationships Issue, into a medium that takes away the stigma and gender polarizing associated with its treatment in the past. We anticipate resistance to this concept by some women, primarily because every statistic, which lists one person being hurt, will also have to list the other person causing the pain, as being hurt too. A lot of women will find that hard to accept, but we hope that in few years time this will change.

In the past MAVAW actively co-hosted Male Awareness Week in December, Fathers' Week in June and fully support the entire Women's Days here. In Canada during the year 2000, we were actively involved with planning the first Dad Walk by the White Ribbon Campaign. This year they celebrated their 4th Dad Walk on the 15th June at the Toronto Zoo. <http://www.whiteribbon.com>. We were also instrumental in changing one Canadian Government programme from "Male Batterers Programme" to "Spousal Abuse Programme". In Suriname during November 2002, one of the feminist's organisations there, which has progressed to the "people issue" stage, **Foundation Stop Violence Against Women, Director Tienke Sumter**, Email stopgeweld@sr.net, invited us to participate in a 3-day conference and provide a 4-day training programme for their NGO Sector in the following areas: -

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Domestic Violence Awareness. | 2. Parenting |
| 3. Healthy Relationships. | 4. Domestic Violence and Interior Design. |

The conference Theme was "**Development= Change: From Women Counseling To System Oriented Counseling**" and my presentation was titled 'The Role Of Men Against Violence Against Women'. Let me acknowledge that it was at a training session with the top managers of this forward looking feminist group that the BSD Syndrome was fine-tuned with their contribution, from just noting the "baggage" as a characteristic to the" Baggage System Dependency".

What we firmly believe however is that we as men must take responsibility for male violence and do all in our power to reduce and eventually eliminate it from our society (Violence by men against men, women, children and the environment). If women choose to do or not do the same, they will bear the consequences of their action. We are men not God, so judgment is not ours to pass

Please keep in touch Bert and forgive this long Email.
Donald Berment, Secretary MAVAW

M.A.V.A.W.

